



Thank you Mr. Chairman, and good morning members.

I'm Clark Harder. I'm the Executive Director for the Michigan Public Transit Association, the state's largest and oldest public transportation member organization. We have over 55 transit providers located throughout Michigan and a similar number of vendor/suppliers based in Michigan, Canada and across the U.S.

Over the past decade we have strongly supported every proposal that has been brought forward to expand funding for roads and transportation. We support the proposal made by Governor Snyder. We are proud to have been a voice of support for our colleagues on the road side and are a member of the Michigan Transportation Team.

As you know it has been 17 years, since 1997, since there has been a gas tax increase in Michigan. However, transit was excluded from the 4 cent increase in 1997, as it was entirely dedicated to roads and bridges. It has been 27 years, since 1987, since public transportation has seen any structural funding formula increase. 27 years time in which demand for public transportation has steadily increased and transits have, very successfully, appealed to local voters to pass millages supporting our activities. However, local resources are extremely strained. It is increasingly becoming more and more difficult to ask local voters to shoulder more of the funding burden.

Michigan needs a comprehensive transportation funding program; one that includes roads, bridges AND transit.

The Speakers plan is a plan to fund roads. Not transportation. Speaker Bolger's plan would be funneled to bypass the Act 51 formula, specifically leaving the Comprehensive Transportation Fund, which funds public transit, out of the mix. Therefore we are not able to support this plan in its present form.

The fix is a simple amendment to include the CTF in the funding distribution. Shy of that we have some other ideas that could benefit transit and bring us along to actively support this proposal going forward.



We would like to be on board. We would like to continue to be supportive of all transportation funding. But we must be a part of any solution. The reality is that small amount of money, in the big scheme of things, dedicated to public transportation, results in huge benefits for the people of Michigan who rely on transit to get them to work, education, healthcare, the grocery store and pharmacy and recreational pursuits. Every dollar invested in transit returns a higher investment in every community where we are present.

We ask that you not leave our riders, your constituents all across Michigan, out in the cold.

Thank you very much and I'd be happy to answer questions or meet individually with any of you.